



Directed research and
Independent Study in the Environment
*Strategies and Techniques for Conducting Qualitative
and Quantitative Research*

Dr. Avigail Morris

2-3 hours a week, 3 Credits, Undergraduate

Course Description

This course is designed to provide a framework for students interested in pursuing an independent research project. The course will introduce students to methods for designing, analyzing, writing and presenting both quantitative and qualitative research. It provides a unique opportunity for students to work on an individual basis with experts in their field of interest and engage in issues which are specific to the Middle East.

In the first two weeks of the course students will choose a research project either from ongoing research or an original research project of their choosing. Each student will be assigned an academic advisor in the region who will guide them throughout the semester. Simultaneously, each week of the first half of the semester, students will attend a two hour seminar which will teach the steps involved in conducting research from surveying the relevant literature to presenting the final results.

The second half of the course will focus less on frontal lectures and more on practical exercises which will help students to progress with their individual research projects. Students will be divided according to the type of research they are conducting (qualitative, quantitative or a combination of the two) and work both in groups and individually with one of the two lecturers of the course. By the end of the semester students will have learned the skills necessary for writing a research proposal, surveying relevant literature, gathering and analyzing data, presenting the results and writing a research paper.

Objectives of the course

- Familiarize students in the basic steps necessary for preparing and carrying out research
- Familiarize students with various methods for conducting empirical research (quantitative and qualitative)
- Illustrate how qualitative and quantitative methods can be combined in order to enrich both the collection and evaluation of data.
- Familiarize students with important strategies and techniques used for collecting and analyzing data as well as presenting the final results.
- Provide students with the opportunity of working with professionals in their field of interest

Grading criteria part I: research proposal	
Attendance & Participation (including additional workshops offered by the institute maybe yes maybe No)	10%
Preparation and presentation of academic article	5%
Pre proposal (½ - 1 page) which includes: the name of the Advisor, Research Topic & Question, Significance of Study, List of literature review.	10%
Final research proposal (4 - 5 pages) which includes: Introduction, Question(s), Problem Statement, Literature Review, Detailed Research Methodology, contribution of study to the field, budget justification, project timeline& bibliography.	20%
Grading criteria part II (writing paper)	
Draft of paper in stages which includes: 1. Draft introduction, 2. Draft methodology 3. Draft results, 4. Draft discussion and conclusion.	10%
PowerPoint Presentation Slides (6- 7 slides)	15%
Final research paper: Introduction, Problem Statement, Literature Review, Methodology, results, discussion, conclusion& References (6-8 pages).	30%
Total	100

Lesson Out line

Lesson #1.Introduction to course:

Lesson one will introduce the students to the criteria necessary for succeeding in the course. It will then discuss:

1. What is research and why it is important, **2.** Various types of research (qualitative, quantitative or a combination of the two), **3.** How to choose a research topic **4.** How to write a pre-proposal.

Assignments List of projects and supervisor contact information.

Prepare a topic for your research with the approval of a supervisor.

All pre-proposals (1/2 to 1 page) are due by Lesson Three

Each student will choose, review and analyze an academic article according to guidelines and questions provided by the lecturers. Each student or set of students will be asked to present their paper to the rest of the class

Lesson #2. Strategies and techniques for conducting quantitative research.

- This lesson will introduce some important fundamental concepts of quantitative research, types of research, definitions of quantitative research, different types and assumptions of quantitative research, when to use and not to use quantitative methods, advantages, common approaches and samples of quantitative research.

Session #3: Guidelines for writing a successful proposal

-The first part of the class will begin with group presentations of the articles assigned in the first class according to the guidelines and questions provided by the lecturers.

The second half of the class will focus on guidelines for writing a successful proposal.

Session #4: Strategies and techniques for conducting qualitative research

This lesson will draw on examples from the field in order to discuss the strategies and techniques used in conducting qualitative research from an anthropological perspective. **Assignment** Prepare full proposal (3-5 pages)

Session #5: Continue

Strategies and techniques for conducting qualitative research ...

Session #6: Uses and Misuses of Data: Drawing Conclusions from Numbers, a Critical Approach.

Session #7: The class will be divided according to those students who are conducting quantitative research and those who are conducting qualitative research. Each group will be assigned a practical "hands on" exercises which will help them to progress with their individual research projects. In this way, lecturers will also be able to follow up more closely on the progress of each student.

Assignment Draft paper including introduction, problem statement, methodology, preliminary results and literature review.

Session #8: The class will be divided according to those students who are conducting quantitative research and those who are conducting qualitative research.

(Writing a research paper, How to put the results in the right context? Building a winning presentation)

Session #9: The class will be divided according to those students who are conducting quantitative research and those who are conducting qualitative research. **Assignment** Draft PowerPoint

Presentation

Session #10: The class will be divided according to those students who are conducting quantitative research and those who are conducting qualitative research.
(Data interpretation, Oral presentation practice and discussion.)

Session #11: Presentation of completed research projects (6 – 7 slides each)

Session #12: Presentation of completed research projects (6 – 7 slides each)

Full paper

Recommended Readings:

J. Bacon-Shone (2015) Introduction to Quantitative Research Methods (first edition), University of Hong Kong Publishers

H. Russell Bernard (2011) Research Methods in Anthropology: Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches (Fifth Edition), Rowman and Littlefield Publishers

And

Emerson, Robert M., Fretz, Rachel I. and Linda L. Shaw (2011) Writing Ethnographic Fieldnotes (second edition), The University of Chicago Press, Chicago and London